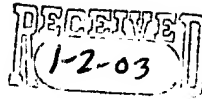


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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants : Toshiyuki MORII et al.

Group Art Unit: 2654

Appln. No. : 09/462,493

Examiner: Angela A. Armstrong

Filed : January 21, 2000

For : SPEECH CODING APPARATUS AND SPEECH DECODING
APPARATUS

RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

In response to the Official Action of July 8, 2002, in which a three-month shortened statutory period for response was set to expire on October 8, 2002, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding rejections set forth in the above-mentioned Official Action in view of the herein contained amendments and remarks.

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel, without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter, claims 2 and 7.

Please amend claims 1, 3-6, and 8-17 as follows (a marked-up copy of the claims is attached at the end of this Response):